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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
IRAQI AGGRESSION AND THE CONTINUED OCCUPATION OF KUWAIT IN FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 20 February 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the English and French texts of the Declaration on the Gulf crisis issued on 19 February 1991 by the European Community and its 12 member States (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 35 and 153, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jean FEYDER
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Declaration on the Gulf crisis issued on 19 February 1991 by the 12 States members of the European Community

The Community and its member States have taken note with interest of the appeal of President Gorbachev to the Iraqi leadership and they welcome in particular its call for a full and unconditional withdrawal of the Iraqi troops from Kuwait and the re-establishment of the sovereignty and the legitimate government of that country in conformity with the relevant Security Council resolutions.

They renew their appeal to the Iraqi Government fully and unconditionally to implement all the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council thus putting an end to the conflict and sparing new sufferings to their people and the people of Kuwait.

They reaffirm the commitment of the Community and its member States to contribute actively, once international legality is re-established, to security, stability and development for all the countries in the region, in an appropriate framework which also takes into account the need for a global, flexible and gradual approach to the various problems of the area. In this connection, they reaffirm their commitment to the sovereignty, unity, independence and territorial integrity of all the countries of the region. They will continue their consultations with the United States of America and other concerned countries, notably the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

They are fully committed to support the role of the United Nations in promoting security and international peace in the area. They believe that it is mainly for the States of the region to reach agreement on arrangements aimed at ensuring their future security both individually and collectively. The Community and its member States will be ready to play their full part in supporting the efforts of the States concerned, and to complement them with appropriate and convergent action. In this connection, the Community and its member States welcome the fact that, at their meeting held at Cairo on 15 and 16 February, the Foreign Ministers of Egypt, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) agreed upon a framework for future co-operation. They will undertake the appropriate contacts with those countries. A meeting of the Troika will be held in the near future with Israel at Ministerial level. Other countries, notably the Islamic Republic of Iran, have also an important role to play for the future stability of the region.

The Community and its member States attach particular importance to their political dialogue with the GCC countries. They are looking forward to the early convening of the EC/GCC Co-operation Council.

The Community and its member States attach special importance to their co-operation and political dialogue with the countries of the Arab Maghreb Union.

They will promote the pursuit of a meaningful and constructive dialogue at political level shortly, and will undertake the appropriate contact.

The Community and its member States believe that the Arab/Israeli conflict and the Palestinian question are fundamental sources of instability in the region. They consider that the international community should make renewed efforts urgently to achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting solution. They continue to believe that a properly structured international conference at an appropriate time will provide a suitable framework for negotiations. Such a conference will require serious preparation. They will actively promote the search for a peaceful settlement through dialogue with and between all concerned parties.

With regard to the situation in Lebanon, they express their strong support for the full implementation of the Taif agreement as the means to achieve national reconciliation in a Lebanon free of all foreign troops.

The Community and its member States endorse the view expressed at the Cairo meeting about the importance of efforts by the Arabs themselves to foster greater economic and social development, respecting the principle of sovereignty over economic resources. The Community and its member States share this perspective and stand ready, in full respect of this principle and in a spirit of mutual solidarity, to develop their co-operation with the countries of the region. Their immediate priorities are to ensure the early implementation of their new Mediterranean policy and the rapid disbursement of their aid for the three countries most directly affected by the economic consequences of the Gulf crisis.

The Community and its member States are aware of the need for a comprehensive approach to all the problems of the Mediterranean, Middle East and Gulf region. In this connection, they are willing to explore the modalities for launching a process aimed at establishing a set of rules and principles in the field of security, economic co-operation, human rights and cultural exchanges.